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MEDIA CONTACTS
Carmenlita Chief | 928.255.3428
Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Delegate Hale shares horsemanship knowledge to help Girl Scout Troops



Photo: Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (right) and troop leader Amber Crotty (center) stands with Girl Scout Troops representing the Arizona Cactus-Pine Council.

OAK SPRINGS, Ariz. – Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) took time on Monday to teach a group of Girl Scout Troops about the various aspects of horsemanship and responsible caretaking, as part of the group’s pursuit of a Girl Scouts badge for horsemanship.

Delegate Hale, a lifelong owner and caretaker of horses, used several of his horses to teach the group about the anatomy of a horse. He also demonstrated the importance of maintaining the horse’s teeth and regular medication and vaccination, as well as other critical practices necessary to promote the healthy maintenance of a horse.

While caring for a horse can sometimes be time-consuming and challenging, Delegate Hale says it also provides opportunities for an individual to bond with their horse.

“It’s a form of therapy,” said Delegate Hale. “When you interact and bond with horses, you have a sense of want and a sense of need.”

Delegate Hale also addressed concerns from troop leader Amber Crotty, who also serves as a legislative district assistant for Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaile/Wheatfields, Tsé Ch' izhi).

Crotty expressed the need for more sponsorships for children who do not have the financial means to take part in certain aspects of the Girl Scouts.

The Girl Scouts plan to build upon their knowledge base of horses by visiting a veterinarian next to learn more of the scientific aspects of horses.

When asked why he wanted to share his knowledge of horses with the group, Hale explained that caring for horses has been a very positive part of his life.

Delegate Hale, who chairs the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, said he wanted to encourage kids to become involved in a hobby or pursuit that they are not only passionate about, but that will also help them throughout their life, as caring for horses has done for his life.

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